

FINNISH FOLK

On Land & Lake



Aino Ackté, Finnish queen of song, in old national dress. To her is due the annual festival at Nyslott to foster Finnish music

Photo, Finnish Legation

Mussels abound in the rugged rocks fringing Viborg's lakes, and mussel-fishing affords a livelihood to a large part of the population

2054

Photo, Apollo





Firing the tangled débris of the fallen forest is a primitive method of clearing the ground still in use among the Finnish peasantry

Photo, Apollo



Many of the bridges spanning the numberless streams of the Finnish countryside are but fragile structures, yet the peasants cross them with no hint of fear when seated astride their sure-footed ponies

Photo, Apollo

Finland

The Homeland of a Free & Progressive People

By H. A. Milton

Author and Traveller

THE Finns in several ways resemble the Scots. To be liked, as a people, they must be intimately known. They are independent in character, brusque in manner. They do not care whether you like them or whether you prefer their room to their company. Most people in Russia who had Finnish domestic servants spoke ill of the whole Finnish nation. But the few who took an interest in their maids or motor-car drivers, their gardeners or yard-men, found much to admire in the Finnish character.

Like the Scots, they are fond of liberty, they are persevering, they value education for its own sake, as well as for the advantages it confers. They are hospitable, they have a strong sense of duty, and, if they make a bargain, they keep it, whatever happens.

They have an instinctive preference for doing everything "decently and in order." For the Russians they have a contempt as well as a dislike, on account of the slackness and disorder of their lives. It was always pleasant to go from Russia into Finland; even though one had grown accustomed to Russian ways and fond of the people, one appreciated the change from the bad roads, the dirt, the shabby houses, the general incompetence and officialdom which afflicted Petrograd, to clean, tidy, well-managed Helsingfors.

Eastern Folk with Western Habits

The people were quite distinct, too. They do not pull their fur caps down and turn their coat-collars up, and wear scarves across their noses, and "protectors" over their ears. They look healthy, and they move about briskly, and they do business like Westerners, not like Orientals.

It is odd that they should be more Western in their habits than the

Russians, for they have a good deal of the Eastern in their ethnological make-up. They belong to the Finno-Ugrian race, which includes the Magyars of Hungary, the Lapps, the Esthonians and Livonians of the Baltic States, and a mass of tribes dwelling in Northern Russia and along the Volga.

Revival of the Finnish Language

Their racial features are high cheekbones, pale faces, grey or blue eyes, light hair, with little of it on their cheeks or chins, and stature rather below the average. The language of the Finns has no relationship with any of the widespread European languages except the Hungarian language; it is full of double vowels and hard consonants. Few people take the trouble to learn it. Its appearance is unattractive. Here are two lines in Finnish from the Finnish national anthem:

Oi maamme Suomi synnyinmaa,
Soi sana kultainen.

For a long time Finnish was what is called a "kitchen language." It was not spoken by the educated Finns. They spoke Swedish, because the Swedes had ruled their country for a long time, and even after the Russians had driven the Swedes out their influence remained strong. The Finns hated the Russians, and refused to learn Russian, and continued to speak Swedish just to show their independence. But gradually there grew up a feeling that it was a shame to neglect Finnish. The educated Finns had it taught to their children. Books began to be published in Finnish. To speak and write Finnish became a test of patriotic feeling. Now Swedish is little spoken in Finland. By determination and perseverance the language of the country has been revived. There is more life in it now than ever there was before.



DRAWING WATER FROM A SOURCE THAT NEVER FAILS

Bucket in hand, this Finnish maid is picking her way carefully across the rough rocks with her pail of fresh water from the lake beside which stands her home. Finland abounds in lakes, fords, and waterfalls; and the inhabitants are not slow to take full advantage of the water-power for driving their mills and factories, harnessing the forces of nature to meet the needs of man

Photo, E. Young

It seemed unjust that this small nation, so resolute and go-ahead, should be under the corrupt and incompetent government of the Russian Tsardom. Russia broke faith with them, deprived them of their right to local self-government, oppressed them when they complained of this and when they sought to induce the Governments of France and England to intervene and plead their cause. Not until the revolution, which overthrew the autocracy, had the Finns ever been able to try their hands at managing their own affairs completely. Now they have the opportunity, and those who know them best are confident they will make good use of it.

How they resented being deprived of the constitution guaranteed them in 1809 they showed in many dramatic ways. Every Finnish woman in Helsingfors wore mourning. All Finns crossed the road when they saw General Bobrikoff, the Russian governor; they would not walk on the same pavement with him. He gave his patronage to some entertainment for charity. The tickets were all bought, but no Finn attended. The hall was empty save for a few Russians. No Finn would use Russian postage stamps. A special mourning stamp was issued, black, with the national coat-of-arms in red, and the names Suomi and Finland. (Suomi is



STURDY INDEPENDENCE WON BY LABORIOUS DAYS

Life is hard for the Finnish peasantry, largely because the climatic conditions compel them to pack so much labour into the six months, from May to October, when their land and water are not ice-bound. This man earns his modest living as a boatman, using the little craft of local construction, and as a fisherman, catching salmon and salmon trout, freshwater herrings, perch, pike, and eel pout

Photo, E. Young

what the people themselves call the country. Finland is the Swedish name.)

It was particularly hard upon the Finns to be robbed of their right to govern themselves, for they have always been progressive in their political ideas. Finland, for example, was the first country to give women the vote. They have not depended for their art and philosophy and literature so much upon the Germans as their neighbours and former masters, the Swedes. The fact of their country being so long a battleground between Russia and Sweden intensified the Finnish national character and drove them in upon themselves.

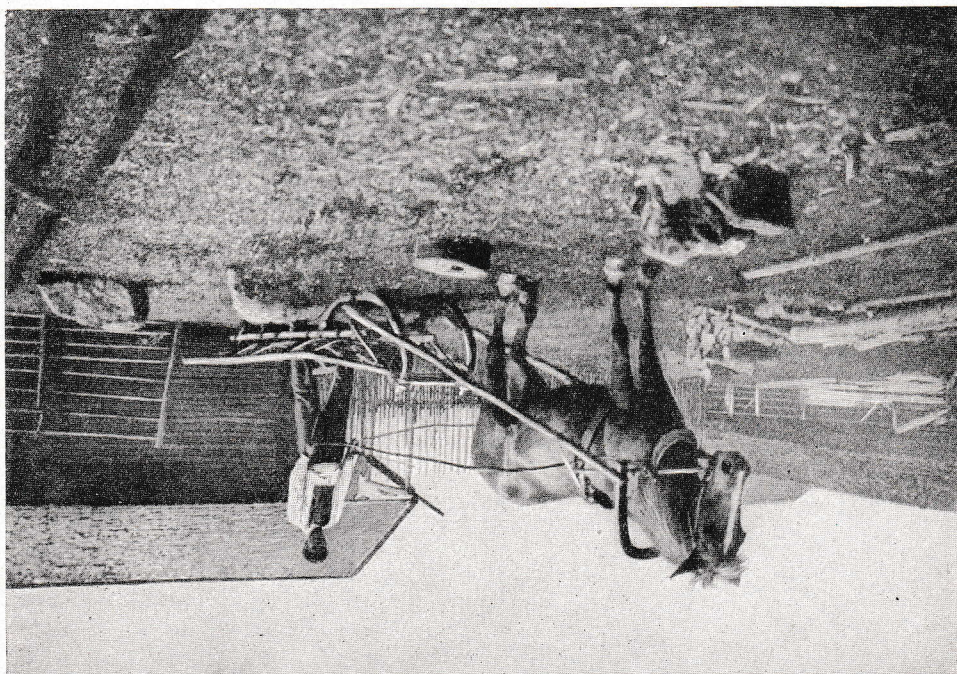
At last they are freed from their long ordeal of repression, free to develop as they wish. They succeeded in putting down quickly the disorder which followed the revolution. The measures they took were sane and vigorous. The Finns do not, like the Russians, shrug their shoulders when misfortune comes upon them or danger threatens. They meet their troubles with energy. They have no such word in their language as the Russian "Nitchivo" (meaning "What does it matter?" or "Never mind!").

The honesty of the Finns has become proverbial. Russians tell of a man who

Photos, F. Young

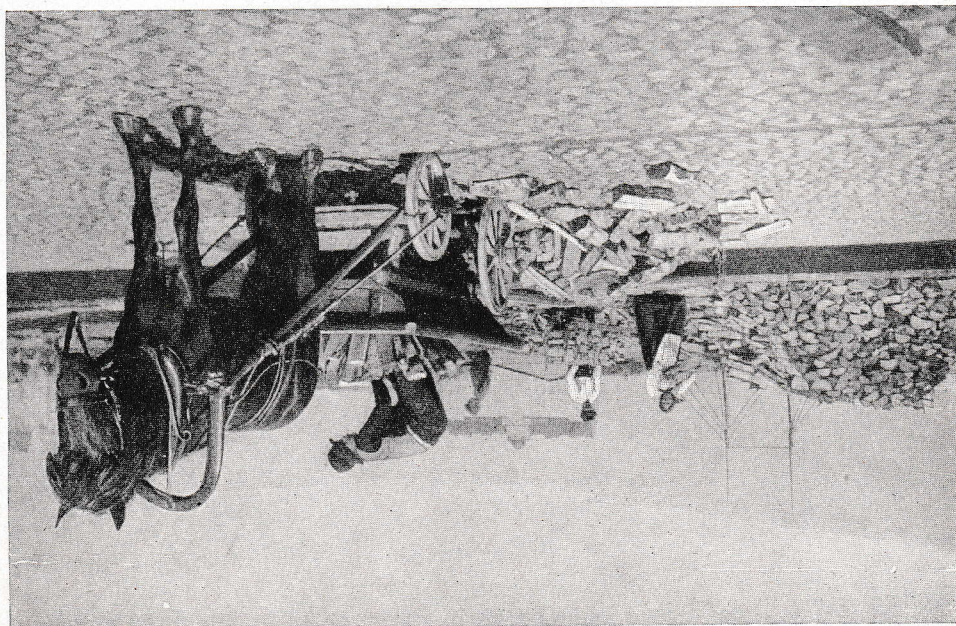
In Finland hay is carried on sleighs which contain no iron in their construction. On account of the heavy winter snows, the hay is stacked in barns, sturdy timber buildings with wide doors on opposite sides to allow of the hay-laden sleighs coming inside to be unloaded, or to pass out after being filled from the stack. The barns are broader above than below to avert danger from snow-falls.

FINNISH HAYMAKER AND HIS WAIN WITHOUT WHEELS



Wood is the usual fuel throughout Finland. Men and women are shown here shifting logs from one of the river steamers at Viborg into one of the curious local wagons in which it will be removed for domestic uses. These wagons can be converted into sleighs for winter traffic. The harness and fittings of the horse are of a Russian pattern.

QUAYSIDE LABOURERS AT VIBORG CARTING LOGS





WHITE-APRONED SALESWOMEN IN WHITE-WALLED MARKET BOOTHS

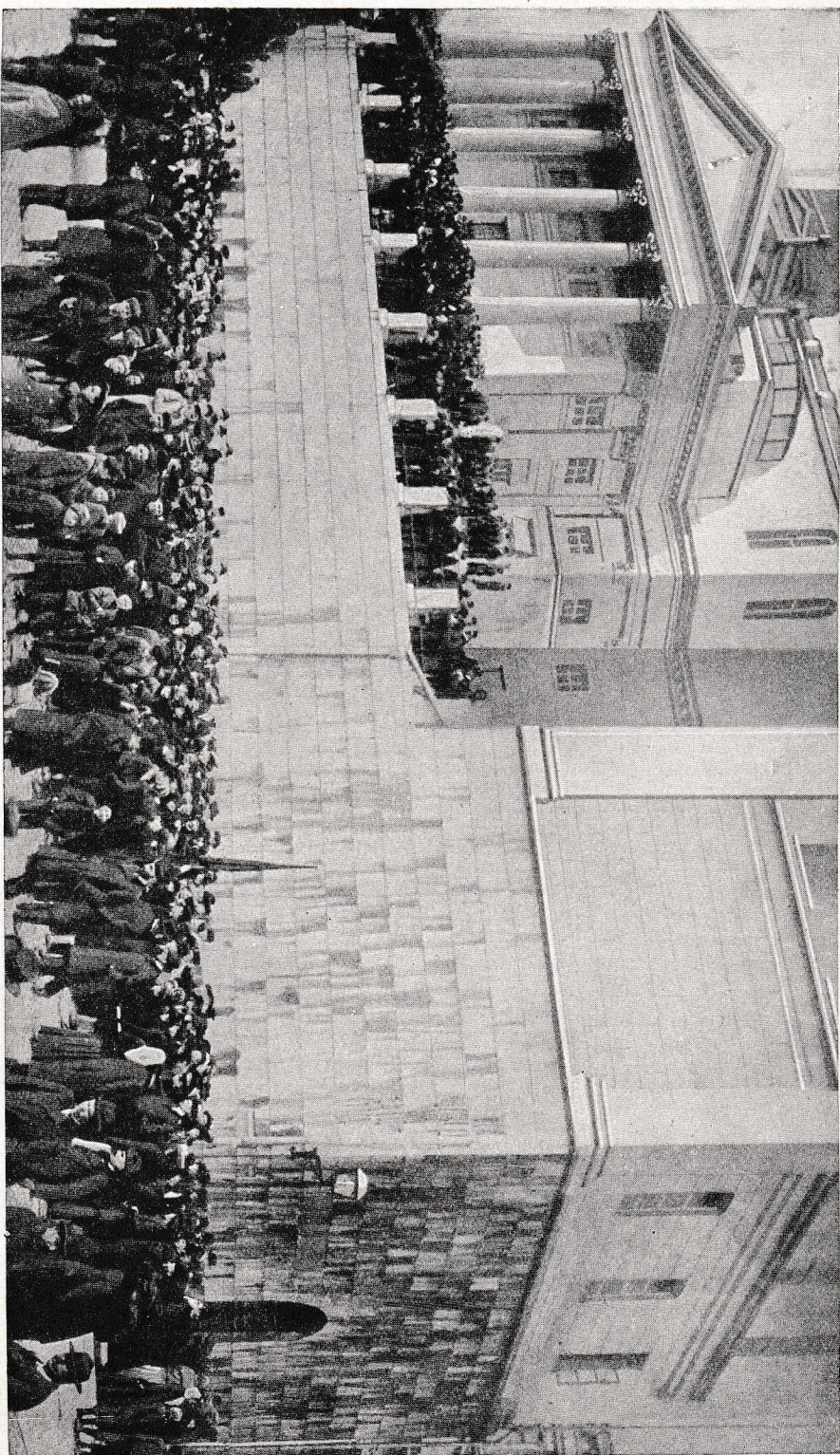
In the sunny market-place at Helsingfors the neat white shelters of the seed dealers present a pleasing picture of fresh neatness. The seeds, for which there is a widespread demand, are displayed in small sacks arranged on low trestle tables. The potential purchasers all have learned by experience the value of money, and do not hesitate to haggle over prices they consider exorbitant



A STRAIN ON THE STRONGEST TEETH: BREAD ON SALE IN HELSINGFORS

The flat round loaves here displayed for sale are made of rye, the climate being too cold for wheat raising. The bread is hard when newly-baked, and becomes positively brick-like when stale. Bakings occur only at long intervals, so the bread is usually eaten in this condition. Pierced by a hole, the loaves are strung from the ceiling till required

Photos, E. Young



ALL HELSINGFORS GATHERS TO SEE THE "HIGH COURT OF PARLIAMENT AT THIS TIME ASSEMBLED"

Politics is a matter of personal concern to the Finns, who are endowed with an almost passionate patriotism. Every man and every woman of twenty-four years of age has a vote and is eligible to the House of Representatives, which consists of one Chamber of two hundred members chosen by direct and proportional representation. Some idea of the people's interest in their parliament may be gathered from this photograph of the crowd collected to see the members of the House of Representatives leaving the Emperor Nicholas Church after a national service

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left an umbrella in a Finnish restaurant, went back a year later, and found it just where he had left it. Their self-respect shows itself also in their personal cleanliness and the neatness of their houses. Every farm has a "sauna," or steam bathhouse. Even the poorest peasants manage to build them. Sometimes, when a young couple build their house, they begin with the bathhouse, and live in it until the dwelling is ready. Inside the sauna large stones are heated, and water is thrown upon them to make the steam. This rises in hot clouds and makes the bathers sweat profusely all over. Then they soap themselves, lathering with small birches lightly applied; next they pour water over themselves, and occasionally, to finish up with, very lusty and tough young men will run out and roll in the snow. Every family takes a steam bath once a week, and enjoys it thoroughly. In the towns there are public baths, well-appointed, and always well patronised.

Comfortable Homes and Wholesome Fare

Outside the towns, the Finnish houses are mostly built of logs, with wood-tile roofs and red outside walls. They are heated by tall, round iron stoves, which give out a most welcome heat. Arriving at a Finnish house on a cold winter evening, with the thermometer registering twenty or thirty degrees Fahrenheit below freezing-point, one finds not only the sitting-rooms, but all the bed-rooms as well, most agreeably warmed by these stoves.

If you are in a house belonging to a cultivated Finn, you will find everything arranged as in more Western country houses; the food will be varied and well cooked. In the small farmhouses you will get salt fish, dried and salted meat, plenty of potatoes, rye bread, and good coffee, of which the Finns drink almost as much as the Russians drink tea, the coffee-pot being kept on the stove and a cup offered, with cakes, to everyone who comes in. You will get excellent butter, slightly salted, and fresh milk to drink; or, if you like it better, curdled milk, something like

Devonshire junket—without the Devonshire cream.

As one travels through Finland it seems to be a land of endless fir forests, lakes, rivers, and marshes, of vast expanses of uncultivated land. But it is a country well suited to dairy farming. Finnish butter is exported in large quantities. The crops on Finnish farms will be found, as a rule, to be more rye than wheat or oats. Rye bread is eaten in the form of large round biscuits, and very good it is.

Intelligence Developed by Travel

Fishing is a principal occupation of the Finns. They are seafaring people by nature, and they have a tendency to wander about the world as sailors. But they generally return to settle down in their homeland. One comes frequently across Finns who have been in British ships, or who have spent some time in America; these generally speak English quite well. It is common to see both young men and young women in Finland who look like Americans. They have the same neatness, the same well-turned-out look, the same alert bearing and intelligent eye.

The shops in Finnish towns remind one often of American shops. The wares are cleverly displayed. The Finns, too, who have been to high school and university, have the same interest in everything that is being thought and said and done which characterises the most active type of American mind.

Modern Culture and Old World Charm

Nowhere can one find towns better provided with bookshops, or bookshops better stocked. In places like Abo and Tammerfors, foreign books are easy to come by. In Tornea, which is just across the Swedish frontier, there are three bookshops, though it is quite a small town. An educated Finn can almost always read English, French, German, and Swedish, and very likely speak these languages as well.

Yet so great are the distances, and so scattered the population that, along with this entirely modern culture, there exists also in Finland an old-fashioned

Here are two of the songs which accompany games. The first is a rollicking ring-dance :

My love is like a strawberry,
So red and ripe to see ;
And nobody else shall swing her round,
Swing her round, but me.

My love is like a cranberry

That grows beside the way ;
And she alone shall be my dear,

My dearie-dear for aye !

The other is adagio :

Why are the stars all shining
So bright in heaven above ?
For joy because a maiden

And a youth have learned to love.

Why do the stars in heaven

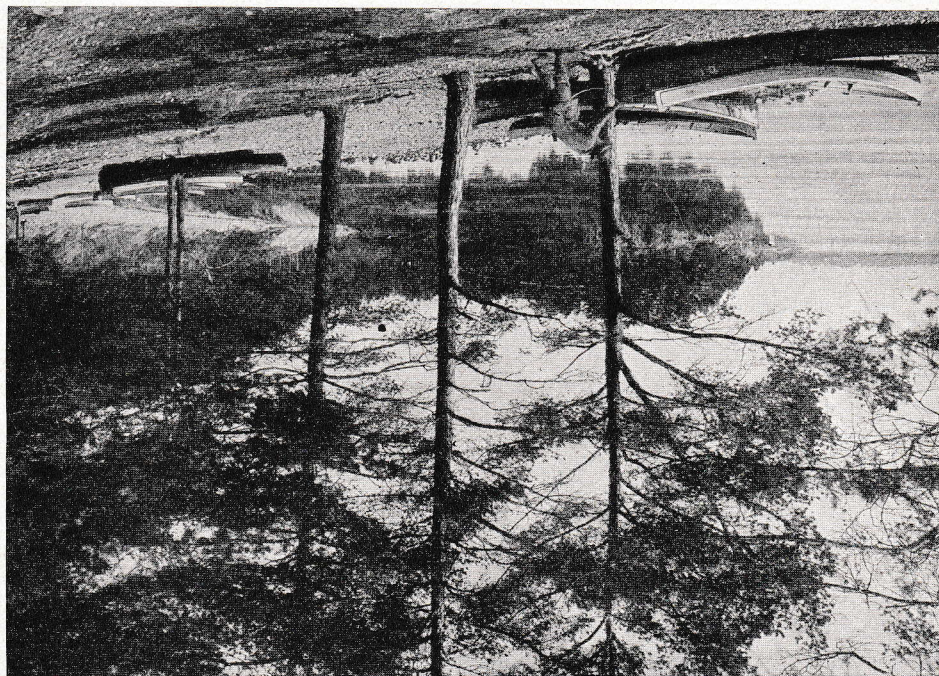
So gladly burn and glow ?
Because I've found my true-love,

And let the wide world go !

(Translations by Miss Rosalind Travers.)

The children when they grow up still remember and enjoy their singing-games on all festive occasions. Those

country life which is full of charm and interest. A village festival or a marriage costume and wear grey suits with soft felt hats. But the women still keep their pretty dresses, with aprons of coloured embroidery and handkerchiefs tied about their heads, and bodices like waistcoats over flimsy white blouses. Brides wear a huge headdress, eighteen or twenty inches high, and hard to balance when the dancing becomes fast and furious to the music of the fiddlers who are a feature at all such ceremonies. The Finns are Protestants. They belong to the Lutheran Church, like the Swedes. But they are not strait-laced or sanctimonious. They are not kill-joys, frowning upon jollity or amusement. They have open-air singing contests in summer, with all sorts of games afterwards, which are great fun. They learn these games as children, and through them they learn to sing.



FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD IN LAKE-BESTREWN FINLAND

The multitudinous lakes scattered about the Finnish territory give to the countryside an inexpressible charm and attraction. Sparkling and many-hued are their waters by day, basking in the golden sunlight, while under the stars they lie motionless and silent, reflecting all the glories of a Finnish night in their placid depths

Photo, Finnish Consul, Hull



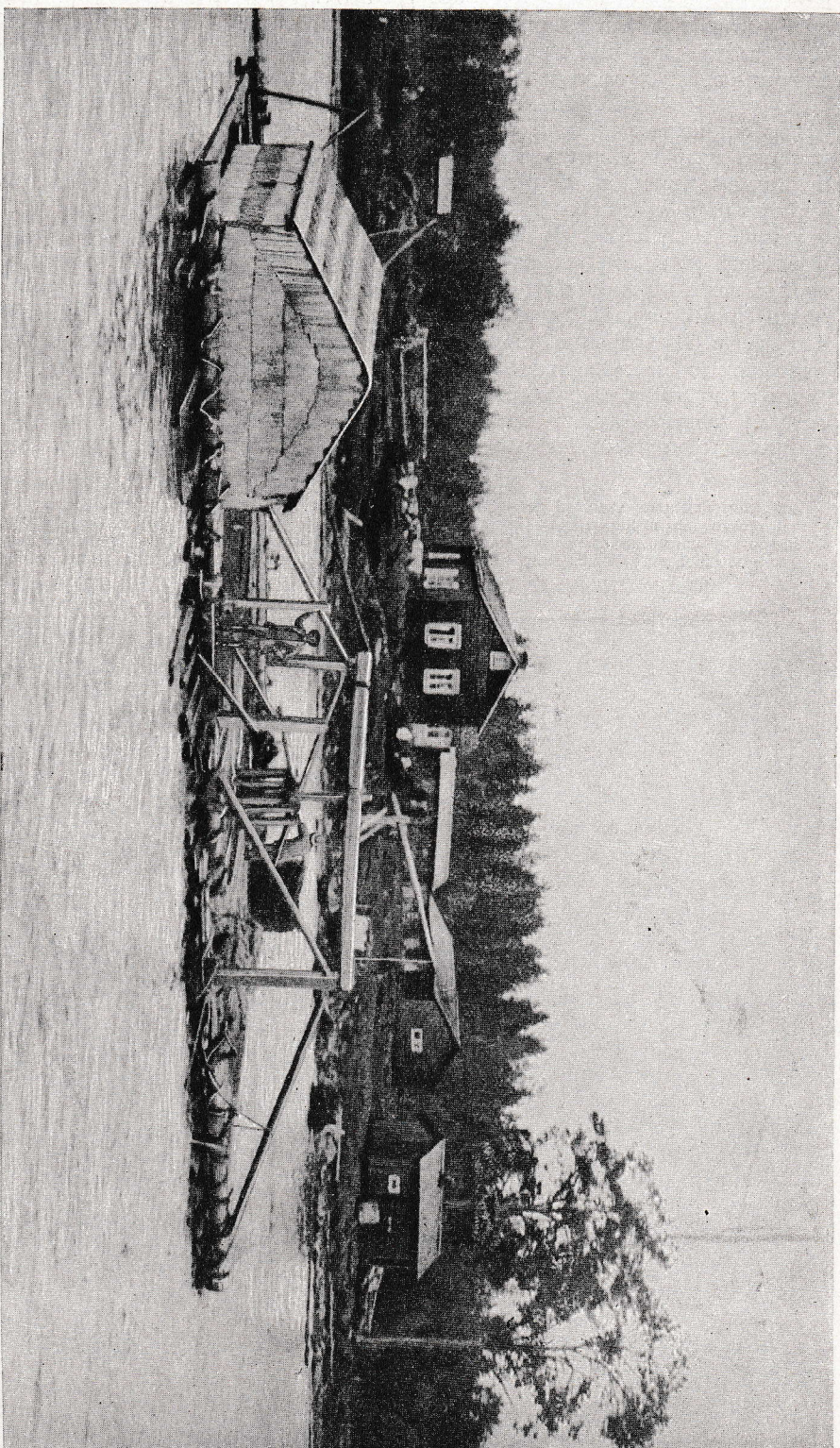
FISHERMEN AT WORK IN THE HARBOUR OF HELSINGFORS

On the quays of the principal harbour, for Helsingfors possesses three splendid harbours or fiords, an artist may find plentiful material for his brush. The scenes are full of animation and colour, and each figure—be it weather-beaten sailor or comely peasant girl—is striking in its characteristic bearing. Among the sea-faring folk, the fisherman, in particular, presents an interesting type, and his geniality is one of his outstanding qualities

who know the Finnish peasant slightly cannot believe that he can be romantic and playful. He is both, but he keeps his romance and his playfulness hidden deep in his nature, and gruffly pretends they are not there. This is why the Finns still sing among themselves ancient ballads and runes, clasping hands and going back in memory to the days of tradition when the men and women of their sagas loved and fought and feasted, and when there was magic in the land. Some of the peasants believe there is magic still, and stories are told of strange rites and ceremonies performed by wise women to this day. Superstition, too, dictates many customs. Thus in remote places everyone

says "Good-day to all here" even on entering an empty cottage, for the "tomatar" or brownie might be there, even if no humans were at home, and if he were offended by a visitor's impoliteness he would do some harm. The death-horse is still spoken of; he limps round the houses of those who are to die. Or perhaps they meet the white hounds, who run by their side just off the road in the forest, slowing up when the doomed ones draw rein and quickening their pace when the sleigh-horse is whipped up.

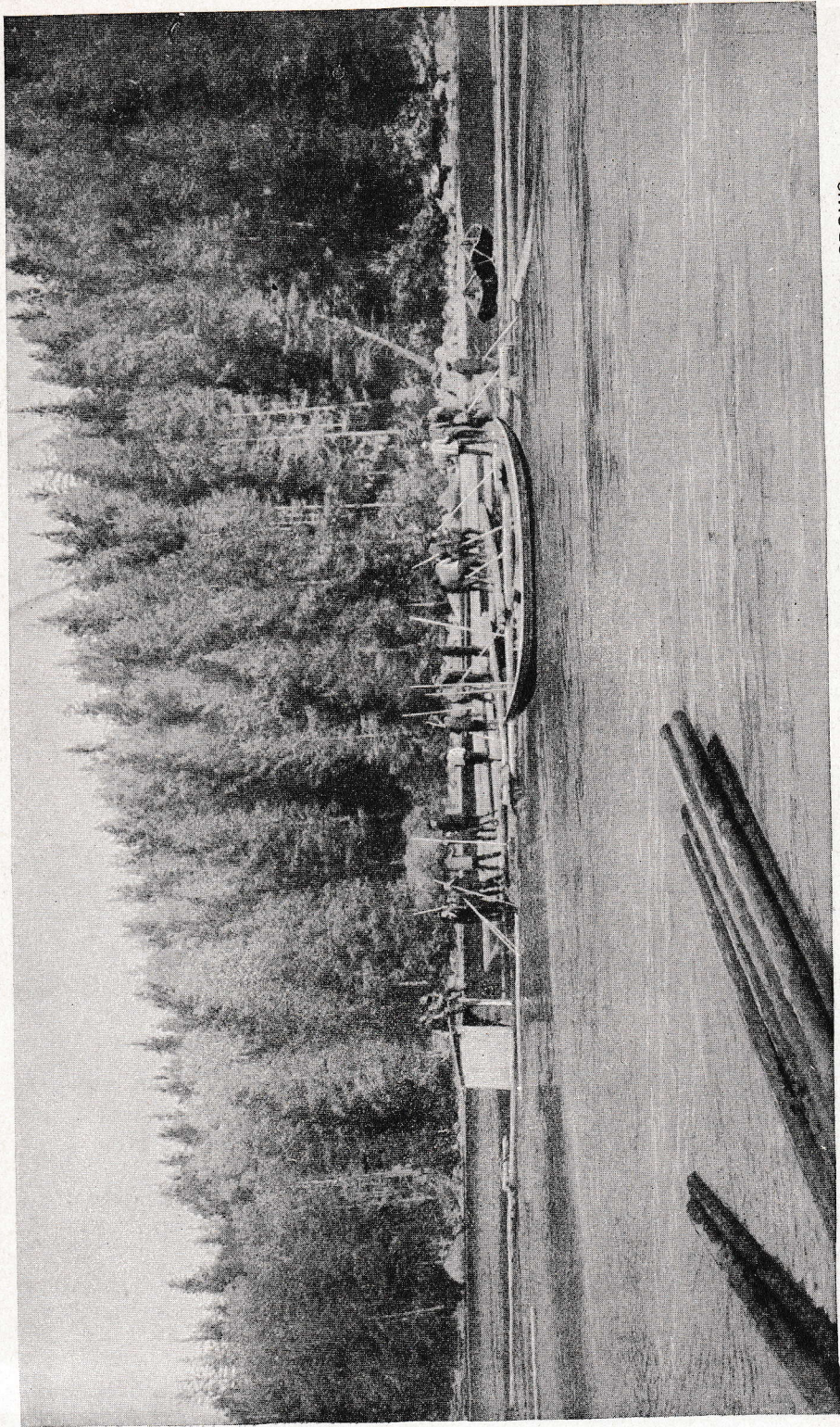
If you hear a water-kelpie shrieking from a pool, you must expect misfortune, and should you meet "Hin Onde," the Evil One, as an old woman



FLOATING HOMES ON QUIET WATERWAYS: THE DECK-HOUSE ON A FINNISH LOGGING RAFT

Timber provides Finland with her greatest industry, the principal woods in commercial use being Scots pine, spruce, birch, aspen, alder, and silver fir. The timber is felled in winter, and in the spring is formed into large rafts and floated across the lakes and canals to sawmills and pulping works, and down to the sea for export. The men in charge of the floating timber live, sometimes with wife and family, in huts built on the rafts, which also carry machinery for hauling logs into position, and sometimes are large enough to accommodate the lumberman's horse as well.

Photo. F. Young



BUSY HUMAN ACTIVITY AMID THE TREES ON WHICH THE WEALTH OF FINLAND GROWS

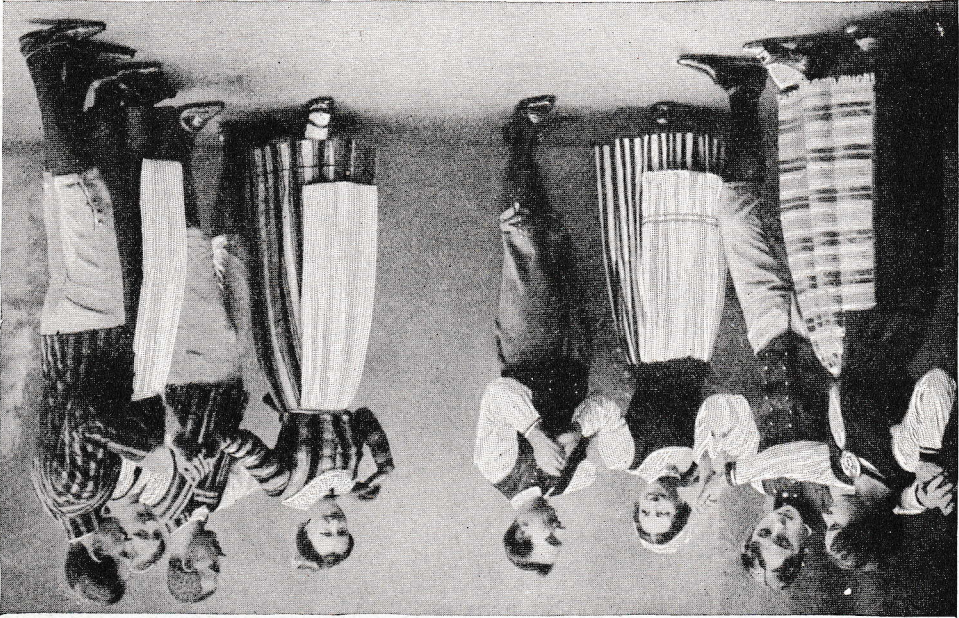
When a waterfall or rapid occurs in a stream the rafts are broken up and the logs sent singly over the obstruction, and then are collected again and reformed into rafts. This photograph shows a group of lumbermen standing on a kind of floating bridge and with hooked poles collecting the logs as they come down stream and distributing them into proper formation. The big logs seen on the left are part of one of the booms that circumscribe the raft. The forest in the background is typical of the lumber region

Photo, E. Young

Photo, Finnish Legation

As a rule, the Finnish peasants are very fine dancers. Their naturalness and enthusiasm in dancing are astonishing, and they throw themselves into the spirit of the dance with an easy grace delightful to behold. During the haymaking and harvesting seasons, the day's work is not infrequently crowned with a feast and dance, and all who have worked are entitled to share in the social gathering.

TRIPPING IT ON "THE LIGHT FANTASTIC TOE"

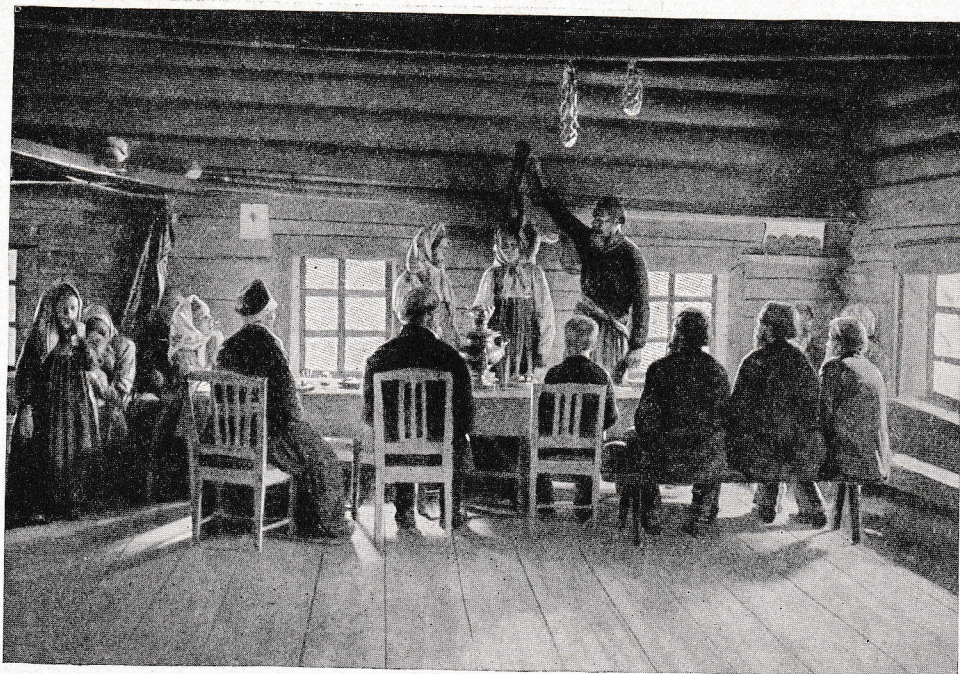


Photo, E. Young

Testimony to the severity of winter in Finland is supplied by the massive construction of the spacious penthouse built over this well to protect it from heavy snowfalls. Away from the rivers and lakes wells are the principal source of the domestic water supply. The smiling child here is a good representative of the fair-headed peasantry whose origin is Swedish rather than Finnish.

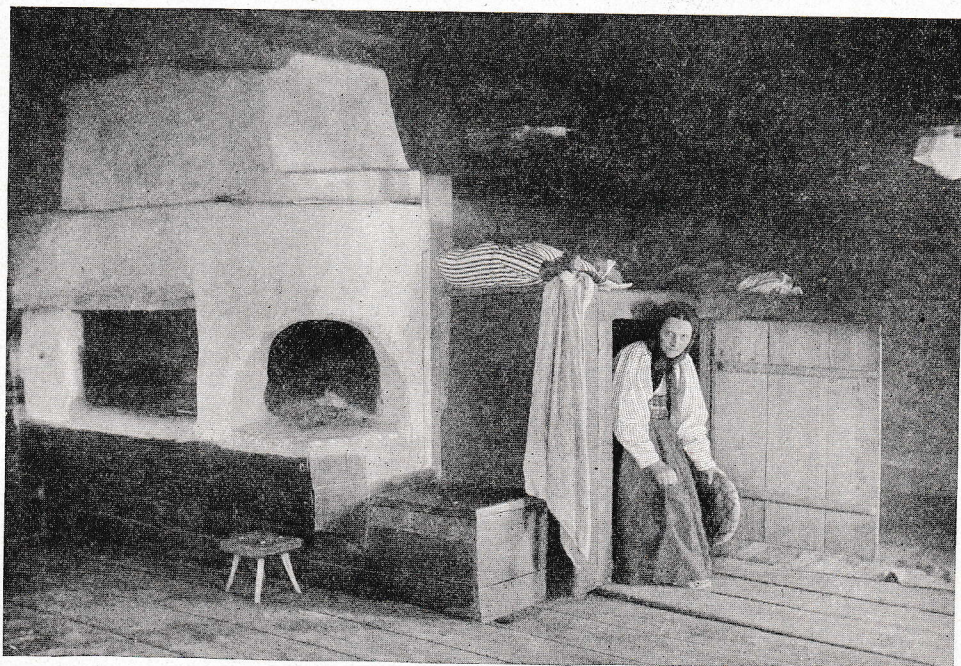
SUMMER SHADE AND WINTER SHELTER FOR THE WELL





OBSERVING ANCIENT TRADITION AT A FINNISH WEDDING FEAST

Finnish weddings of bygone days were attended by an extraordinary amount of ceremonial ritual. Civilization has modified these practices, and the professional tear-shedders, or wailers, of Finland are now practically non-existent. Nevertheless, tradition still holds her own among the peasantry, as when, during the wedding feast, the veil is ceremoniously lifted from the head of the young bride



THE "WARM CORNER" OF A FINNISH PEASANT'S COTTAGE HOME

Very few of the old "smoke cottages" are now to be found in the villages of Finland; they have been superseded by small houses with chimneys and windows. But the stove still remains the principal feature of a cottage interior; monopolising a large portion of the room, it often reaches from floor to ceiling, and its spacious flat-topped wings afford cosy resting-places to the family

Photos, Apollo



PEASANTS IN LARGE CHURCH BOATS ON THEIR WAY TO WORSHIP ALONG ONE OF THE "THOUSAND LAKES." This is a common Sunday scene in the Finnish countryside. Great distances separate the villages in the lake districts, and on Sunday morning, and in very remote parts on Saturday evenings, boats voyage from village to village to take the peasants gathered together to be rowed to church. These church boats are large, capacious vessels, many holding upwards of 100 persons, and are the property of the villages that build them.

Photo, Finnish Legation

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of Mankala did one evening in a fiery sunset, he will almost frighten you to death with his horns and his hoofs and his diabolic tail. But there are kind fairies, too, the Twilight Maiden, for instance, who, if you call her rightly, will spin a thread of gold to lead homeward those who have lost their way in the woods, or the "little daughter of the forest with yellow hair so lovely," who protects the cattle against bears and wolves.

The educated laugh at superstitions and chaff the peasants about them, but they are anxious to keep up the old games and songs. One of the famous Finnish national poems may be read on the pedestal of the statue to the poet Runeberg on the esplanade at Helsingfors. It is a battle-song. The Russians would not allow it to be sung, as, they said, it caused the population to become excited. This is how it begins :

Sons of a race whose blood was shed
On Narva's field, on Poland's sand ; at
Leipzig ; Lutzen's dark hills under.
Not yet is Finland's manhood dead,
With foeman's blood a field may still be
tinted red.

All rest, all peace, away, begone !
The tempest loosens ; lightnings flash ;
and o'er the field the cannon thunder.
Rank upon rank, march on, march on !

Man Works While There is Light

No country except Scotland, which is as poor in natural resources as Finland, and as severe in climate, has aroused so fierce a patriotism. Nearly three-quarters of the country is almost uninhabited, and the population of the other quarter is sparse. While in Denmark there are 60 inhabitants on a given area of land, in Poland 63, in Germany 80, in Holland 180, and in Belgium 205, there are in Finland not more than 25. That proves how unfruitful the soil is. Yet the Finns, like the Scots, flourish on their sterile holdings. They could not drag a living out of them without very hard work.

In summer they are busy from earliest morning not until dark, because it is not dark until ten or eleven o'clock, but until they are worn out. They

have to make use of every hour of the sunny, warm weather. In winter there is not so much to do. The country is covered with snow from November, sometimes from October, until April. Daylight does not really begin until nine o'clock, and night begins to chase it away about three in the afternoon. The only way to get about freely is either in sleighs or on skis. Walking is only possible where roads have been trodden well down and when the frost keeps them hard.

Temperance of the Finnish People

In spite of their cold, raw, winter climate, the Finns drink little intoxicating liquor. For many years the sale of alcohol was forbidden in country districts, and its export into Finland was not allowed, even in small quantities. With rare wisdom the governing men of Finland set themselves to prove to the nation that alcohol was bad for it, while light beer did people no harm. In 1870 there were sixty distillers of alcohol in Finland. By the end of the century the number had diminished by half. The number of brewers, on the other hand, doubled. Very rarely is a drunken man seen, and no one is known to have ever seen that terrible sight—a drunken woman. A Prohibition law was put in force in 1919.

To its women Finland owes much of its quick advance in civilization. Not only politically, but economically, they have a better position than the women of any other country. All professions are open to them, excepting the Church and the Army.

Real Equality of the Sexes

There are women lawyers in all towns (though none have yet been judges) ; there are women architects, women government servants, women bank cashiers. It is held in Finland that every girl ought to be brought up to earn her own living. "Every citizen's first duty is to support himself or herself, to work for his own bread, and not live idle at the expense of his kindred, be they alive or dead. Hardly one of our women would be content to



THE PEOPLE'S CORNER IN COMMERCIAL VIBORG

The market boats at the quay hold almost as great an attraction for the Viborg women as the artistically arranged shop-windows in the town. Bargains, right worthy of the name, may be transacted with the owners of the boats, and many a thrifty peasant-wife fills her cupboards with the wares supplied by these stalls afloat

exist in idle dependence, supported by a living father or brother, or even by a husband, though there are some who make return in public service for the competence which their parents bequeathed to them." So said one of the leaders of the Finnish Woman's Movement some years ago.

The demand of "Equal wages for equal work," that is to say, the claim of women who do the same work as men to be paid the same wages as men, was made in Finland long before it became common anywhere else. Finnish Shaw's play "You Never Can Tell" was produced in Finland the audience

If husbands and wives do not get on well, the remedy, divorce, is simple. After a year of separation they can get their marriage dissolved by mutual consent. When Bernard Shaw's play "You Never Can Tell" was produced in Finland the audience

women do not, as a matter of course, give up their work when they marry. Many, even after children have come, continue to carry on their professions or occupations, and these appear to get on with their husbands quite as well as the stay-at-home wives.



WHERE SPIRITUAL AND BODILY NEEDS MAY FIND SATISFACTION

Dating back to the 13th century this fine cathedral, built of brick on huge blocks of granite, is the dominant building in Abo, Finland's capital town before 1819. On the river which runs in front of the cathedral is a water market, and here a leisurely trade is carried on from the small boats which, partially covered with sails slung tentwise over the lowered masts, are excellent substitutes for stalls

and who has not a fair knowledge of public affairs in other countries besides her own. Even the women who are not, in the technical sense of the word, educated, are quick-witted and lively, at all events in the towns. Shop assistants or domestic servants are apt to ask sensible questions of foreigners about the customs of other countries. The system of education is clearly directed to the developing of intelligence. Once an Englishman was talking to a Finnish schoolmaster in the town of Oulu.

"They spoke of Russia's attempt to dragoon Finland, and the school-master said it could not succeed.

"Why not?" asked the Englishman. "You can't fight Russia."

"Oh, yes, we could!"

"We make guns, and very big guns, here in Oulu. We have an important foundry. Do you care to see it?"

The Englishman, very much surprised, said he would like to see it, so they went along

until they came to a school building, from which the children were coming out at midday.

"There," said the Finn, "that is our gun foundry, and there are some of our guns on their way home to their dinners. The weapons of this country," he added, "are progress, civilization, and humanity. In the end they will surely gain the victory over the deadliest engines of destruction that can be forged."

And so it proved.

In the schools of Finland all children are taught to dance and sing, to speak, which includes recitation and

could not understand why the hero was alarmed at the thought of getting married.

Men in Finland did not offer the

same furious opposition to women who demanded equal rights with them as

When girls first entered universities, they were, in general, treated with

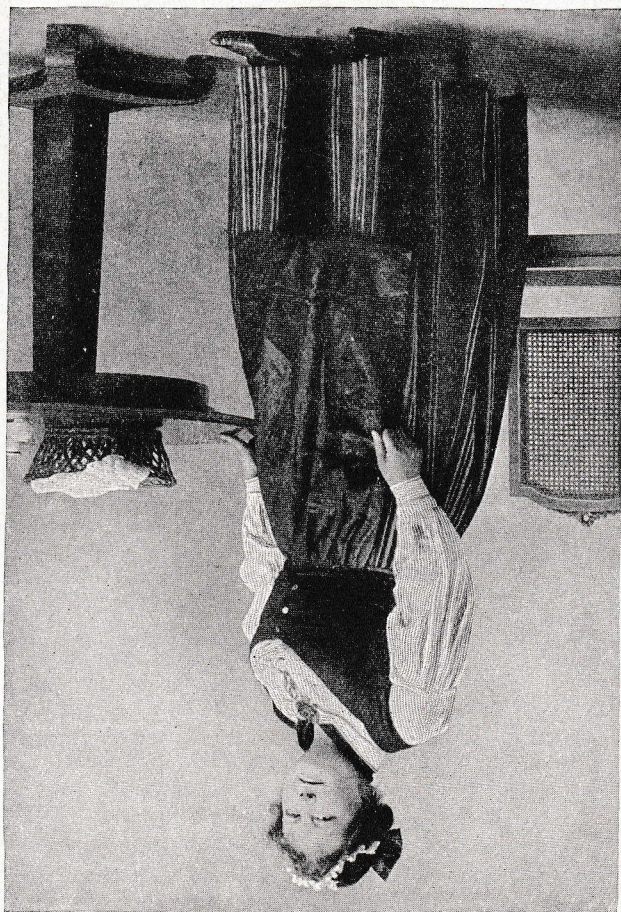
comradely kindness and consideration. In the university of Helsingfors, one-

fifth of the students are women, and they are in every respect on an equal

footing with the men.

It is rare to find an educated Finnish woman who cannot talk about French and English literature

CHAMPION OF THE WOMAN'S CAUSE



This lady, in her simple though attractive national costume, is Mrs. Aino Malmberg, whose name will always be identified in Finland in connexion with the movement for Women's Rights



EQUAL RIGHTS ENTAIL EQUAL DUTIES IN FINLAND

Women have shared men's responsibilities and men's privileges in Finland for many years, exercising the vote, representing constituencies in Parliament, and performing many such civic duties as police work. Here, in Helsingfors, a man and a woman are working together as scavengers, sweeping the streets with besoms of birch twigs that are another illustration of the use of the products of the forest

Photo, E. Young



WHERE THE TIDE OF LIFE RUNS STRONGLY: MORNING MARKET AT THE SOUTHERN HARBOUR, HELSINGFORS

Cleanliness and youth are declared to be the two outstanding features of Helsingfors since it has been rebuilt as the capital of Finland. Especially picturesque is this busy quayside facing the southern harbour, where the steamers come to anchor alongside the market square, and upon which the great Russian church looks down, its white roofs and golden domes gleaming afar. In the morning the square is crowded with booths, covered and uncovered, among which townsfolk and peasants press to do their shopping. At the north-east is seen the unpretentious three-storeyed Imperial Palace

story-telling, to read and to understand what they read, to write and to express themselves clearly in writing, to do simple sums, to do simple gymnastics and other exercises, to swim, to take care of their bodies and keep them in health, to know the way about their country and to understand something about its "natural history," to understand the use of a vote, by means of lessons in history and citizenship.

Girls are taught, in addition, to sew and cook and take care of babies and sick people. Boys learn to carpenter and to box. If there is a better elementary school course than that, it is not yet generally known. The Finnish schools, too, are in themselves educative in the finest sense. They are light, airy, spacious, pleasantly furnished, with pictures on the walls. The classes are of manageable size, and the teachers are allowed plenty of scope for individual methods of teaching.

Alert Intelligence in Remote Districts

The consequence is that even the peasants who live in the "back blocks" have some ideal and information, and follow public affairs with some interest. When petitions were being taken round for signature against Russia's attempt to rob the Finns of their rights, a messenger was sent on skis to the more northerly wilds to arouse the peasants of Kittila to a sense of the country's danger. He found that they were aware of it already and eager to do something by way of protest. How far from the centre of active life they dwelt was illustrated by the journey which the messenger had to take. After leaving the railway he had to travel one hundred and fifty miles by sleigh, thirty miles on horseback, and a hundred miles on ski before he reached the village for which he was bound. Yet when he got there he had no difficulty in getting all the men of the district to come in and sign the petition.

In winter, when there is not a great deal of work to be done, schools are opened for working men and women of all ages over eighteen. For about thirty shillings a month anyone who is

really a manual worker can get board, lodging, and instruction, both technical and literary. Handicrafts are taught, and by means chiefly of conversation classes, history, elementary science and philosophy, health-lore and folk-lore are studied. Also there is much singing and dancing. The students sing before meals and after meals. Each lesson ends with a song, and in the evening they sing for hours at a stretch just for the pleasure of it.

Cooperation through the Centuries

It is a mark of having profited by education that the people are so ready to help one another in the true spirit of cooperation.

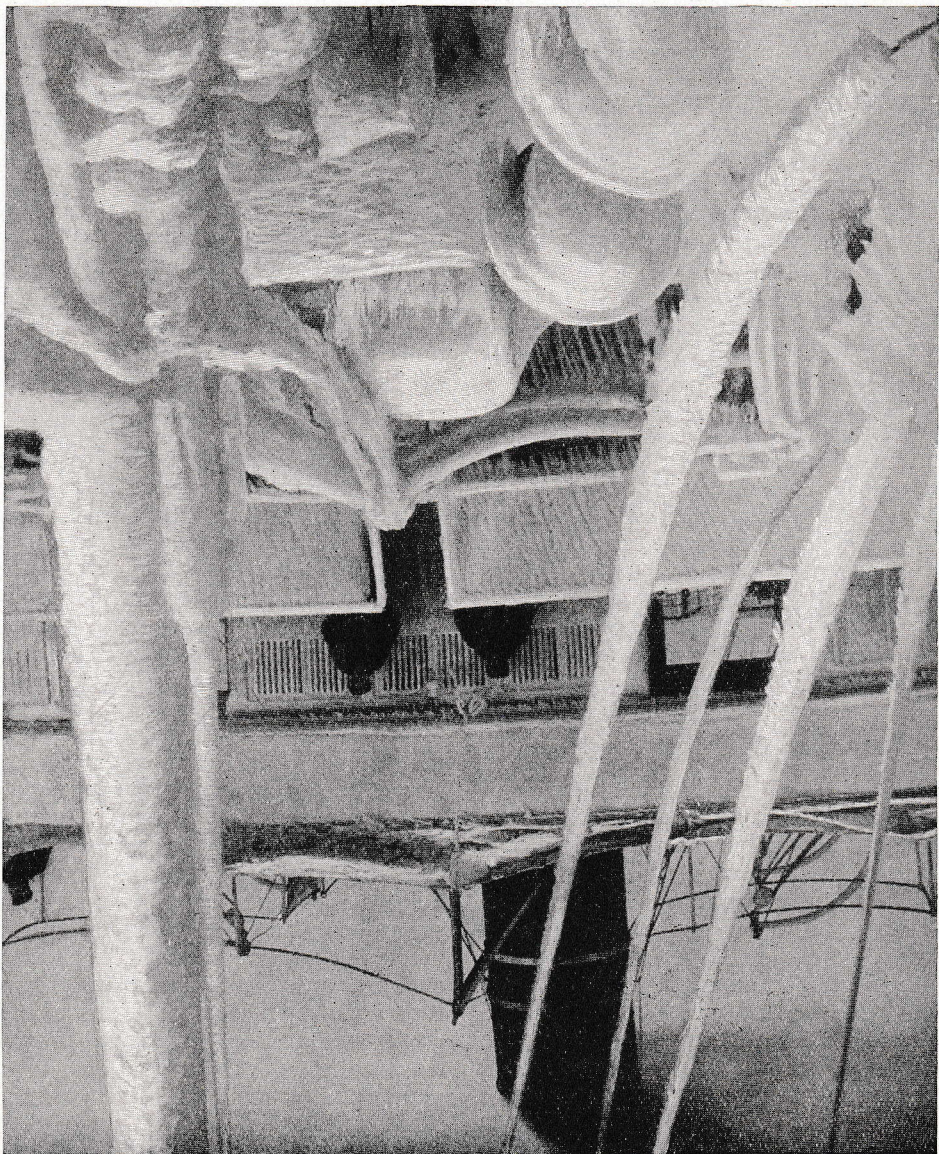
"You should stay over to-morrow," said a Finnish host to a guest who was enjoying his hospitality; "for to-morrow I have a 'talkoo.'"

The guest had no idea what a "talkoo" was, so he explained:

"It is a way we have, which dates back to the Middle Ages, and probably farther. It is a practical illustration of the English proverb, 'One good turn deserves another.' I have some repairs to do to my stables. Some thirty of my neighbours will come here to-morrow and help me with these repairs. I shall set out good meals for them, and in the evening, after supper, the young people will take the opportunity of coming together and dance. Next week I am going to help a friend who will be getting in his harvest with the same assistance. It is a capital plan every way, for it prevents jobs from hanging about. With so many willing helpers we can often get done in a day what would take a week or two if each worked by himself with only his own people."

Fortunes in Forests and Falls

There are about three million Finns in Finland. Yet the exports amount to ten million pounds a year. Over three pounds' worth of exports per head of the population of a small and poor country is a high average. Sixty per cent. of them consist of timber. The forests of Finland, which, except for a short while in



ICE KING'S GRIP ON A FINNISH CARGO BOAT

The vessel has passed through the strain and stress of a voyage in the bleak waters of a Baltic winter, and its appearance supplies evidence of the climatic and other tests that go to the making of that sturdy type of seafarer, the Finnish sailor. The long coastline of his country affords the Finn ample and early opportunity of practical acquaintance with the mysteries and exactions of life at sea

Photo, Finnish Consul, Hull

summer look so dreary from the train windows, are of great value as a source of wealth, while industries are being slowly but surely developed. It will be noticed that a number of Finnish names end with "joki." That is because the word means river. Equally common are the terminations "jarvi" and "koski." These are the Finnish words for lake and falls. The abundance of water in the country is not altogether an advantage, but it has this value, that plenty of cheap power is available for industry. The Finns have taken advantage of this, and of the fact that the country is covered with fir trees, to go in for pulp and paper-making. In the last forty years or so they have increased their



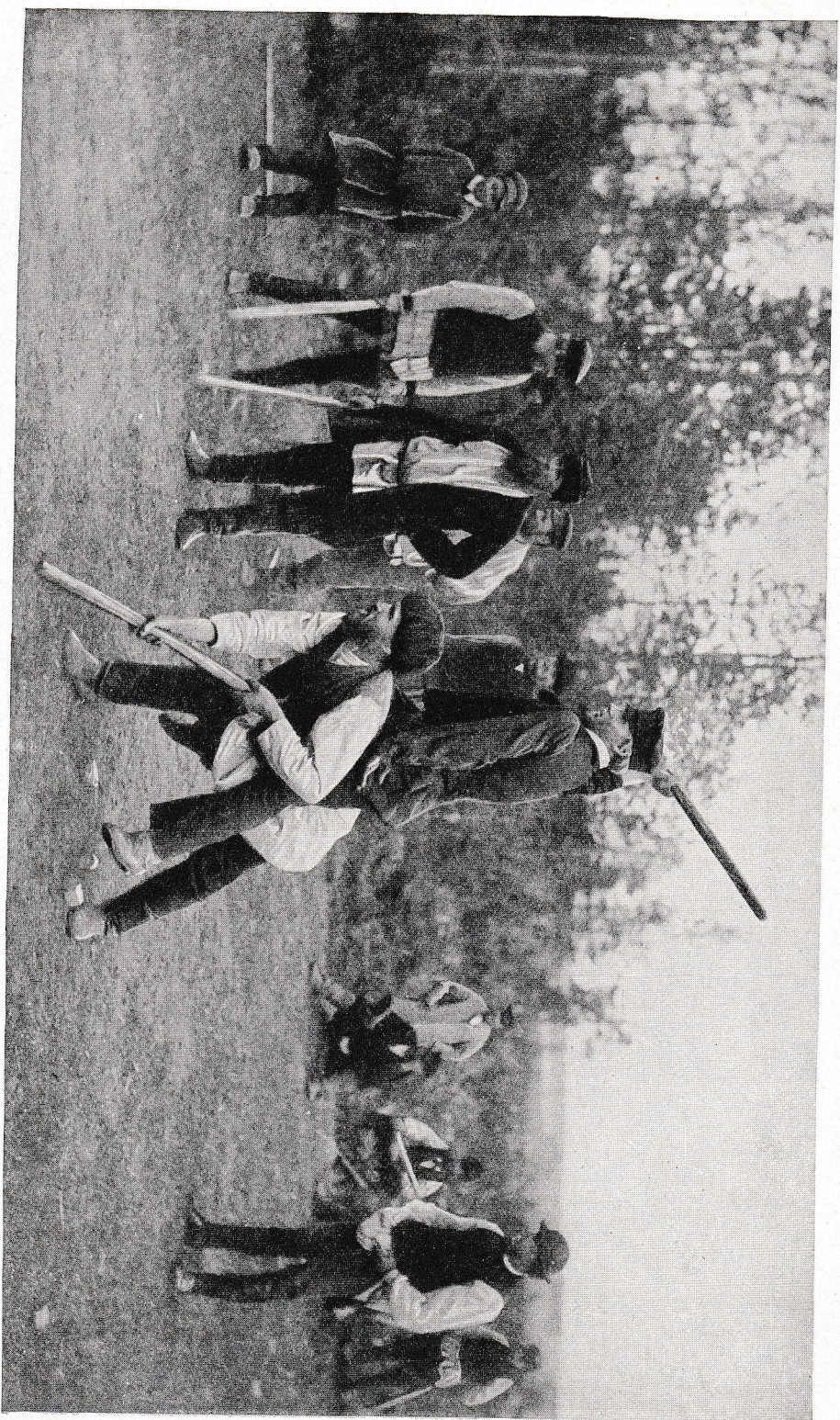
CRAFT WHICH, THOUGH SMALL, ALONE DARES SHOOT THE RAPIDS

Shooting rapids is an exhilarating adventure for which Finland provides several famous opportunities. From June to September many tourists visit the lake district of the Finnish uplands, whose waters find outlet into the Gulf of Finland through the river Kymmene. The Mankala Rapids run through fine scenery from Mankala to Perolahti, about six miles of violent rapids shot in rowing-boats in about a quarter of an hour



FERRYING WARES TO MARKET ON A FINNISH LAKE

A boat is one of the chief treasures of the country-man, for in Finland life is lived almost as much on water as on land. Ofttimes a procession of boats bearing a merry wedding-party is seen on the lakes, almost daily the market-women are afloat, and sometimes a mournful cortège, in the foremost boat a coffin, slowly glides over the quiet waters



HUMAN HOBBY-HORSE PLAYS A PART IN A POPULAR PASTIME OF FINLAND

Many of the games and pastimes of the Finnish countryfolk have been borrowed from their Slavonic neighbours across the border, and the game on which these stalwart peasants are now so eagerly intent is not unlike the Russian "Little Towns," where small cylindrical pieces of wood are ranged in position within a square of ground, the object of the game being to knock the wooden figures from the square with specially-cut sticks in a minimum number of throws

Photo, Apollo

export of paper from an insignificant amount to many thousands of tons a year. There were two pulp mills in 1865. Now there are between forty and fifty. In Finland it is as profitable to possess a waterfall as it is in South Africa to discover a goldmine on one's land.

Yet the finest fall in Finland has not been harnessed. It brings in more money as a "sight" than it ever could as an industrial proposition. Both in the beauty of its scenery and in the enormous amount of water which rushes down a dark, narrow gorge formed by precipitous cliffs, Imatra is unsurpassed. Every visitor to Finland goes there as a matter of course, just as you go to Pompeii if you are in Naples or to the Kremlin when you travel through Russia. There is a good hotel where the food is European, and guests wear dinner-jackets and dancing-frocks. When you tire of dancing or playing bridge you can wander away and listen to

Finnish singers accompanying themselves on the national instrument, the "kantele," a kind of zither. There is some relationship between the music of the Finns and that of their blood-relatives, the Magyars of Hungary. It is either plaintive or wild, and the kantele goes very well with it.

The best musicians are the people of the north and east, the Karelians. The south and west are inhabited chiefly by another branch of the Finn nation called the Tavastlanders. The two have much, of course, in common, but in many things they are unlike. Here is an explanation which a Finn gave to a traveller of the differences between them:

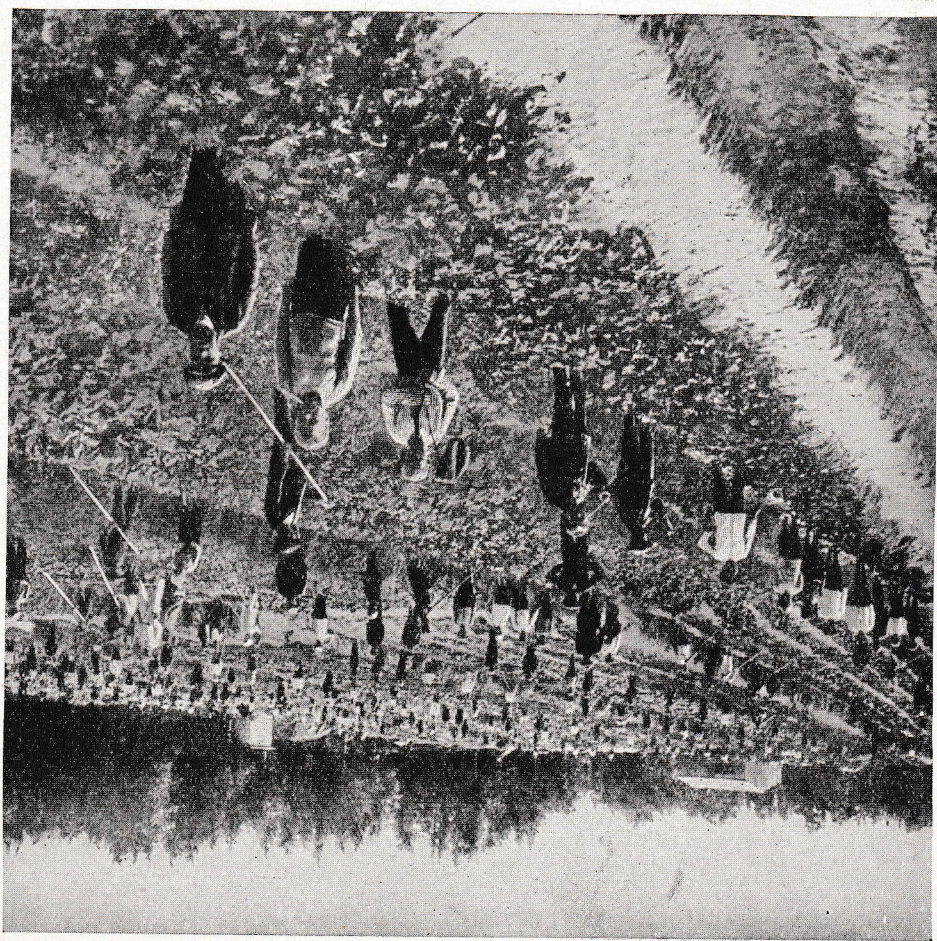


ON THE PLAYING-GROUNDS OF FINLAND

The Finnish peasant, a homely, intelligent person, is not lacking in amusements for his hours of leisure, and full-bearded, middle-aged rustics participate in the popular games with all the ardour and zest of youth

Photo, Apollo

"Although both are Finlanders in the true sense of the word, the manners, customs, and even the appearance of these two races differ almost as much as those of the people of France and Germany. The Karelian may, indeed, be called the Frenchman, and the Tavastlander the Teuton of Finland. In Karelia, pleasure, music, and art are regarded as being of more importance than the more serious and practical walks of life. Our greatest poets and composers come from Karelia, where the women are famed for their beauty, and the men are quick-witted, light-hearted, and totally different from the Tavastlanders, who often appear dull



PUPILS OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON THEIR GARDEN ALLOTMENTS

Since the time of the Reformation a national education has existed in Finland, although for many years it consisted only of instruction in reading and religion, the country schoolmasters being chiefly priests and sacristans. The elementary schools made an appearance in the beginning of the latter half of the nineteenth century, and some 4,000 higher elementary schools alone are now to be found in the country districts

and even boorish by comparison. Both have their good points, for although stolid and not so attractive on the surface, the Tavastlander is plodding and tenacious, and makes a better citizen than his clever but less persevering countryman. Karelians are not so thrifty or so industrious. We have a saying in Finland 'Karelia for pleasure, but Tavastland for work,' and that aptly describes the situation. In the country called Savolax there is a mixture of the two races, and there you will find some of the most distinguished and cultured men in the whole country." The man who gave this information was, it should be added, a Tavastlander himself.

The mixture of two such strains ought to result in a well-balanced national character in a development, both Finland a place in the world far more prominent than that which she has occupied modestly hitherto. Already this development has made good progress, and as an independent nation the Finns are bound, it would seem, to go rapidly ahead. Their industry is far-seeing and capably managed. Their business men and bankers, few as yet in number, are enterprising and large-minded. In every direction the prospect opening out before the Finnish people is full of promise.



WHEN ALL THE WORLD IS YOUNG

On the happy, vivacious countenance of this Finnish peasant maid one may read the exultation of healthy youth. Like some blithe spirit she flits through the woods, her voice ringing out now and then in unpremeditated song. Work and play come alike to her, but she is never so happy as when, her tasks performed, she may roam the countryside at her will

Finland

II. How the Finns Secured Their Freedom

By A. MacCallum Scott, M.A., M.P.

Author of "Through Finland"

of almost unbroken war, during which Finland was ground between the upper and nether millstones of Sweden and Russia. At first the arms of Sweden prevailed, and in 1617, during the reign of Gustavus Adolphus, the treaty of Stolbova secured to Sweden not merely Kexholm, on Lake Ladoga, but also the province of Ingria, on the southern shores of the Gulf of Finland, where now Petrograd stands. For two generations there was peace, but the horrors of war were replaced by the hardly less frightful horrors of famine and pestilence. In some parishes the population died out altogether, and the churches had to be closed.

Independence First Foreshadowed

Then followed the long and bitter struggle between Charles XII. of Sweden and Peter the Great. In 1710 Peter seized Kexholm and advanced into Finland as far as Williamstrand. By 1716 he had overrun the whole of Finland. Finally, by the Peace of Nystad, in 1721, the eastern Province of Viborg, nearest to Petrograd, was ceded to Russia. It was not reunited to Finland until Finland herself had come under the suzerainty of the Tsar.

Repeated efforts were made by Sweden to win back the lost province. They all ended disastrously for Sweden, and still more so for Finland. The attempt of 1742 was badly prepared. The whole Swedish Army was forced to capitulate at Helsingfors, and the Treaty of Abo in 1743 saw the Russian frontier advanced about 100 miles beyond Viborg to the river Kuumene, including the towns of Williamstrand and Fredrikshamn. In 1788 Gustavus III. renewed the attempt, and after an inconclusive struggle the treaty of Värälä in 1790 re-established the status quo ante.

This struggle was remarkable for one incident which showed the direction in which the minds of native Finlanders, who saw that their country was being bled to death in these unending wars, were turning. On the ground that the King had violated the constitution by declaring war without the consent of the Diet, some 206 officers formed a conspiracy in which two main ideas were apparent. The first was the limitation of the power of the monarch. The other was the establishment of an independent Finland under the protection of Russia. The conspiracy

Finland a Cockpit of War

The recorded history of Finland commences in the year 1157, when Eric IX., King of Sweden, with the special blessing of the Pope, undertook a crusade for the purpose of converting the pagan Finlanders (both Finns and Swedes) to Christianity. He was accompanied by Bishop Henry of Upsala, an Englishman, who, reinforced as he was by the secular arm, baptized the population en masse. Bishop Henry was assassinated in the following year, and was canonised as the patron saint of Finland.

It was the end of the thirteenth century before Sweden had completed the conquest and occupation of Finland. In 1293 Birger Jarl overran Karelia, occupying Viborg, at the eastern end of the Gulf of Finland, and Kexholm on the shore of Lake Ladoga, thus bringing Sweden for the first time into direct contact with the Russian Empire. For the next five centuries, up to 1809, Finland was incorporated as an integral part of Sweden, and her history is merged in that of Sweden. Unfortunately, these five centuries were not years of peace, but years

T HE Finns, who form nearly seven-eighths of the population of Finland, are, like the Magyars and the Turks, an Asiatic race, probably an offshoot of some remote Mongolian stock much modified by admixture with other races. They crossed the Urals before the Christian era, and before the seventh century the pressure of the Slavs had driven them into Finland and the trackless forests of the Baltic shores and North Russia, where they lived a life very much like that of the North American Indians. The Swedes, who form about one-seventh of the population, had also settled on the coast districts before the dawn of history. Swedish Vikings controlled the great trade route overland through Russia and down the river Dnieper to Constantinople, and it was one of their number, Rurik, who in the ninth century founded the small state of Novgorod, which was destined to become the nucleus of the Russian Empire. They traded in amber, furs, skins, and most precious of all, slaves; and Finland was valuable to them as a source of supply both of furs and of slaves.

FINLAND'S STORY

proved abortive, but it foreshadowed the constitutional movement, and prepared the way for the great event at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

In 1808, seizing a favourable opportunity during the Napoleonic Wars, the Russians invaded Finland. The Swedes were caught unprepared and were unable to send reinforcements. Sveaborg, the great naval fortress, surrendered without a blow. For some months General Aldercreutz, retreating northwards with a small force, maintained a gallant struggle against overwhelming odds, the romantic episodes of which form the theme of "Ensign Stål's Tales," the most popular of the works of Runeberg, the national poet of Finland. The Tsar, Alexander I., resolved to hold out his hand to the Finnish National movement which had manifested itself in the war of 1788-90. Without waiting for the end of hostilities with Sweden, he convened a meeting of the Finnish Diet at Borgå, in March, 1809, and with this Diet he entered into an agreement for the Union of Finland and Russia on the basis that the Finnish constitution should be preserved and guaranteed. Six months later Sweden recognized the fait accompli by the treaty of Fredrikshamn, whereby she surrendered all her rights in Finland to Russia.

Finland, therefore, was united to Russia not by right of conquest, but by an Act of Union carried out in constitutional manner. In the century of marvellous growth and development which followed, this remained the sheet anchor of Finnish nationalism. There were times when Russian autocrats sought to abrogate the rights of independence guaranteed by this Act of Union; but all sections of public opinion in Finland immediately combined in defence of their liberties with a solidarity against which coercion was futile. Each of these waves of coercion ended in a fuller recognition of Finnish constitutional rights.

In latter years we heard much of Russian oppression, especially under the harsh and brutal regime of Governor-



THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

General Bobrikoff, who was assassinated in 1904, and during the period of much more subtle constitutional aggression which commenced in 1910 and lasted up to the Great War. But it should never be forgotten that, in spite of these lamentable episodes, it was the union with Russia which gave Finland the opportunity of growing to the full stature of nationhood.

In 1809 the population of Finland was less than a million. There was no literature in the language spoken by seven-eighths of the people. Swedish was the sole medium of culture, of learning, and of government. Fortunately, her destinies were in the hands of a group of singularly able patriots and statesmen, who set themselves deliberately to make out of this unpromising material a nation with a literature, an art, and a polity of its own.

The way was pointed out by Ivar Arvidson in the oft-quoted saying: "We

The seal-hunter has recourse to more than one ruse before he can get in shooting distance of his prey. Generally he stalks him, lying flat on a sledge propelled over the frozen sea by his feet, and in order that his approach be unobserved, he fixes a white board or sheet in front of the sledge. Sometimes he dispenses with the sledge, and, dressed in white, creeps along the ice on his stomach

ONE OF FINLAND'S FAVOURITE WINTER PURSUITS



increased from less than one million to over three and a quarter millions, and there was a great increase in material prosperity.

The Great War found Finland, in 1914, in the throes of another constitutional struggle with Russia. As elsewhere, the first result of war was to strengthen the hands of the Imperial Government. Held passive under a regime of stringent repression, Finland took little share in the war. The first Russian Revolution, in March, 1917, brought about the restoration of the Finnish Constitution, which was continued under the Kerensky government. The position, however, was unsatisfactory, as the constitution was ambiguous in many important respects. The small Swedish party was for complete independence. The much larger Social Democratic party, distrusting Swedish influence, advocated complete self-government under the Russian flag, similar to that enjoyed by the British Dominions. The Bolshevik Revolution, in September, 1917, precipitated a crisis. The large Finnish army stationed as a garrison in Finland was undisciplined and unpaid. It sided with the revolutionary element and the forces of disorder. These events turned the scale of public opinion in favour of complete independence, and in November, 1917, a Finnish Republic was declared by the Diet.

have ceased to be Swedes; we cannot become Russians; we must be Finns," J. W. Snellman, a philosopher who had already made a reputation in Europe, became the political leader. "It is impossible," he said, "to educate the people in politics while in the schools and in the courts a language unknown to them holds sway." He and his colleagues, therefore, set themselves to develop the obscure Finnish vernacular into a literary medium, and to establish a universal system of national education. Runeberg, who wrote in Swedish, and whose noble verse was the inspiration of the movement, is permanently enrolled among the great poets of Europe. Elias Lönnrot, a doctor of medicine in a remote parish, collected from the lips of the peasants the metrical tales of the people, handed down by tradition from unknown antiquity, and pieced them together to form the Kalevala, which now ranks as one of the five great epics of the world. From the original impetus of these pioneers there sprang also schools of painting, sculpture, music, and architecture, which show distinctive national characteristics. By such means the Finnish language won its way to recognition, and the Finnish nation became one of the most educated peoples in Europe. In the course of a century of peace, the population

FINLAND'S STORY

A Socialist majority was, for the time being, in control. The position was very unstable. In January, 1918, the Finnish Revolution was inaugurated by the seizure of Helsingfors by Red Guards, and a desperate civil war ensued. The Allied Powers of Europe were unable to intervene owing to the German blockade of the Baltic. The Finnish Government appealed to Sweden for help, but Sweden was afraid of being dragged into the Great War.

There was but one Power from which help could be obtained, and that was Germany. A German force was landed to cooperate with General Mannerheim, who led the Finnish Government forces, and the combined armies, having regained Tammerfors and Helsingfors, gradually drove the Red Army back to Russia. In June, 1918, a new Diet was convened, from which all Revolutionaries were excluded. It was resolved to adopt the monarchical instead of the republican form of government, and the Finnish crown

was offered to a German prince. This was the price for German aid.

The collapse of Germany and the victory of the Allies in November, 1918, once more altered the situation. No more was heard of the German prince or of a monarchy. Finland remains a republic, and her independence is recognized by the Great Powers.

A grave dispute with Sweden arose over the possession of the Aaland Islands, which have always been Finnish territory, but which Sweden has always regarded as of vital strategic importance to herself. This matter was referred to the League of Nations and has now been settled by a recognition of Finnish sovereignty with certain restrictions on the military use of the islands. With Russia on one side and Sweden on the other, and with many internal problems of her own, Finland has still many difficulties to encounter, but a nation which has proved its capacity to produce so many great leaders can look forward to the future without undue anxiety.

FINLAND: FACTS AND FIGURES

The Country

Consists of plateau in North Europe, with indented lowlands round Baltic coastline of 1,000 miles. In the south are thousands of shallow lakes; in the north, known as Lapland, are heights of over 3,000 feet. Largest lakes: Inari (534 square miles), Saima (502), Paijane (429), Uleatrask (387). Lake Ladoga (7,000) is half Russian and half Finnish. Numerous short rivers, broken by rapids, navigable in stretches, used for floating timber. Rivers and lakes frozen December to May. Rainfall heavy, but little snow. Winter ports Abo, Hango, and Helsingfors. Large coniferous forests. Reindeer, bear, wolf, and lynx found wild; mosquitoes prevalent. Coast fringed with islands, including the Aaland area, 149,586 square miles. Population about 3,367,550, ninety per cent. Finns, Tavastlanders or Karelians, about nine per cent. Swedes, with a few thousand Laplanders. Language Finnish, but Swedish understood in large towns.

Government

Republic (Suomen Tasavalta), proclaimed December, 1917, recognized by Powers, and under constitution of July, 1919. President elected for six years, and House of Representatives of 200 members for three. Sixteen electoral districts with proportional representation. Universal suffrage at age of twenty-four.

Defence

Service in army universal, and compulsory between ages of seventeen and forty-five. Voluntary Civic Protective Guards distributed in twenty-one districts, total over 100,000. Personnel of navy for coastal defence, about 1,170 officers and men; vessels include four light cruisers, three torpedo boats, and one mine boat. Coast artillery, about 2,440 officers and men.

Commerce and Industries

Chief industry lumber, occupying about 20,000 workers, more than half country being covered with pine forests. There are 284,188

farms, but only about 8.5 per cent. of land cultivated. Over 80,000 engaged in factories. Exports in 1921 (timber, pulp, paper, horses, meats, hides, leather, gums, resins, tar, matches), 3,385,700,000 Finnish marks, or about £134,000,000 (mark=94d.); imports, 1921 (cereals, coffee, tea, sugar, textiles, leather, oils and fats, machinery, metals, and spinning materials), 3,583,000,000 Finnish marks, or about £142,000,000, reckoning the mark at 94d.

Communications

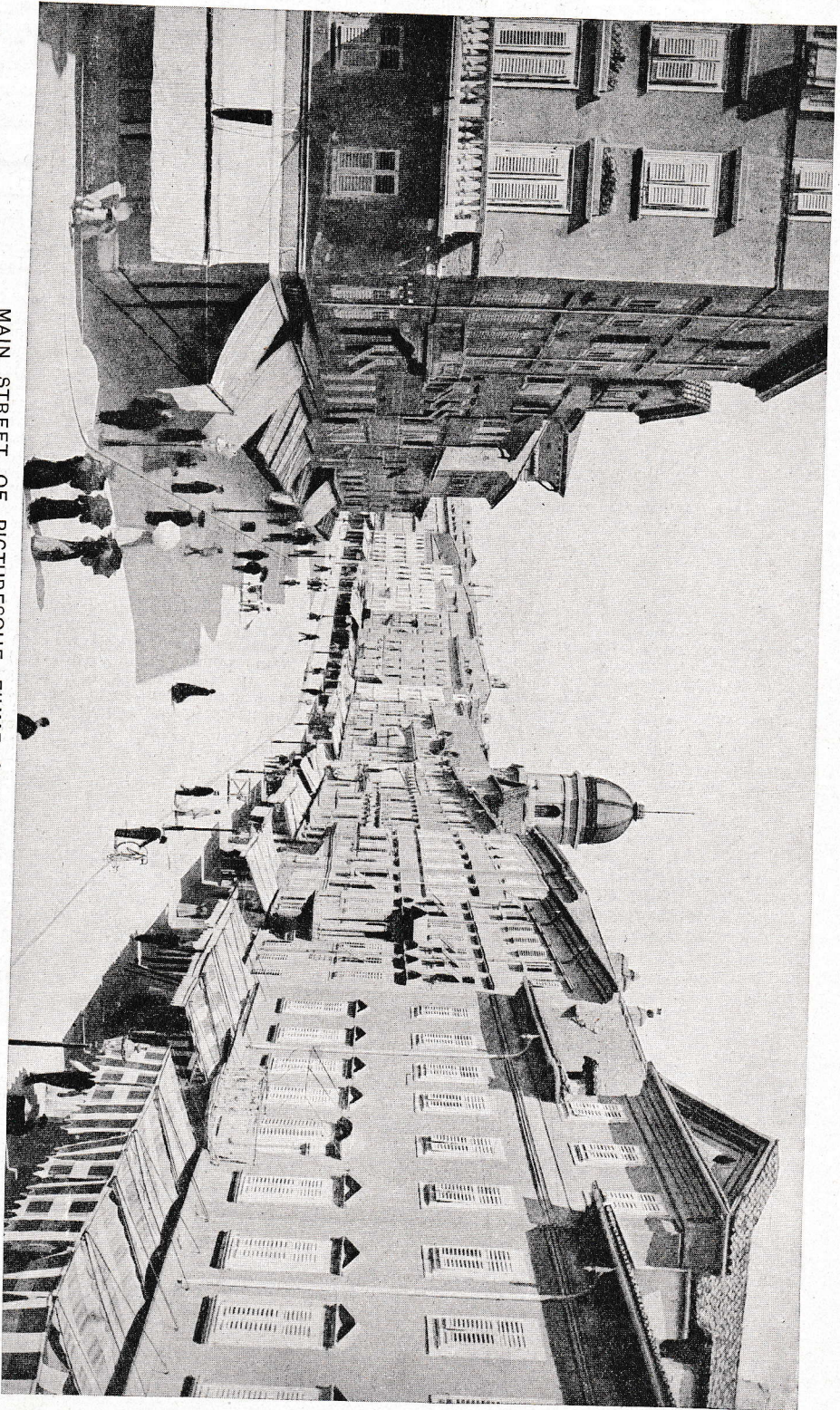
Railway mileage, 2,685, largely State-owned. Lakes connected with each other and with Gulf of Finland by canals. Telegraphs (about 10,500 miles of wires) and telephones (3,230 miles of wires) owned by State.

Chief Towns

Helsingfors (Helsinki), about 188,900 population; Abo (Turku), 59,900; Tammerfors (Tampere), 46,800; Viborg (Viipuri), 30,000; Vasa (Vaasa), 24,480; Uleaborg (Oulu), 21,200; Kuopio, 18,140; Björneborg (Pori), 17,000; Kotka, 11,560.

Religion and Instruction

National Church, Evangelical Lutheran, with four bishoprics. Liberty of conscience guaranteed. Lutherans, about 3,270,000; Greek Catholics (with archbishop) and Raskolnics, 57,000; Roman Catholics, Baptists, and other denominations, about 10,000. Three universities (a State university at Helsingfors, a Finnish and a Swedish university at Abo), one technical high school, two commercial high schools, eighty-one lyceums, forty-two middle schools, twenty-three colleges for girls, eight training colleges for elementary school teachers, forty-two high schools for the people, 3,640 higher elementary schools, 1,260 lower elementary schools, 1,540 infant schools, in addition to other educational facilities for study of arts and crafts, agriculture, etc.



MAIN STREET OF PICTURESQUE FIUME SEEN UNDER A SUMMER SKY

Fiume's main thoroughfare, known as the Corso, is near to the centre of the town, between the Piazza Scarpa on the east and the Piazza Dante on the west, a little to the north of the steamboat quay. It contains the Torre Civica and many fine shops, and, save for the sun blinds and the tiled and overhanging roofs of the houses, this photograph of it recalls somewhat the aspect of the Quadrant of London's Regent Street. The seaport, known to the Romans as Tarsatica, has been for a long time mainly populated by Italians and Croats.